

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated December 6, 2005. The outstanding rejections are discussed in detail hereinbelow. Claims 1-12 are rejected as being anticipated by the US Patent to *Wada* (USPN 6,703,689). Claims 1 and 7 have been amended herein and new Claims 21-26 have been added. Entry of the above amendments and reconsideration of the claims in light of the comments herein is requested.

The Rejections of Claims 1-12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Claims 1-12 are all rejected as being anticipated by the *Wada* reference. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to clarify inventive aspects of the invention. For example, in Claim 1 (as now amended) the substrate now recites "a plurality of depressions" having the conductive structures formed therein. Additionally, the conductive structures now recite "a conductive layer with ... the bottom surface in contact with an associated depression" and "a support feature formed in the depression on the top surface of the conductive layer and formed of dielectric material". The applicants respectfully submit that there is no support feature in the *Wada* reference. Moreover, there is no depression in *Wada* but rather a via. Thus, the structure recited in Claim 1 is patentably distinct from the cited art.

Additionally, Claim 7 (as now amended) recites similar structural features. For example "a plurality of depressions" and a "conductive layer with ... the bottom surface in contact with an associated depression in the semiconductor material" and "a support feature formed in the depression on the top surface of the conductive layer and formed of dielectric material". These recitations are not present in Claim 7.

Thus, for at least these reasons, the applicants respectfully submit that the cited portions of the art fail to teach all claim elements of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the cited portions of the prior art do not establish a *prima facie* case for anticipation and are therefore insufficient to establish a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that this ground of rejection be withdrawn as to Claims 1 & 7.

Additionally, as dependent Claims 2-6 and 8-12 are believed allowable for at least the forgoing reasons. The applicants believe that the underlying claims are allowable for a number of

reasons. However, due to the underlying allowability of the base claims, applicants do not believe a further explanation of these dependent claims is required at this time. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully also request the withdrawal of the rejected dependent claims.

New Claims:

Claims 21-26 have also been added to specifically clarify certain patentable subject matter. Claims 21 and 22 are dependent upon Claims 1 and 7 respectively. Also, Claim 23 provides a new base claims upon which Claims 24-26 depend. Many limitations of these claims are somewhat similar to those expressed in Claims 1 and 7. Thus, these new claims are believed to be allowable for at least those reasons expressed above concerning those claims. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 21-26.

Conclusion:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claimed invention as presently presented is patentable over the art of record and that this case is now in condition for allowance.

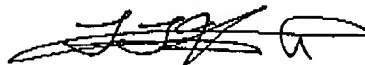
Accordingly, the applicants request withdrawal of all pending rejections and request reconsideration of the pending application and prompt passage to issuance. As an aside, the applicants clarify that any lack of response to any of the issues raised by the Examiner is not an admission by the applicant as to the accuracy of the Examiner's assertions with respect to such issues. Accordingly, applicant's specifically reserve the right to respond to such issues at a later time during the prosecution of the present application, should such a need arise.

As always, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the applicants representative to discuss any matters pertaining to this case. Should the Examiner wish to contact the undersigned for any reason, the telephone numbers set out below can be used.

Additionally, if any fees are due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct such fees from the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0388 (Order No. NSC1 P275).

Respectfully submitted,

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